

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

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R 031549Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA, KS

SUBJECT: AIDE MEMOIRE TO ROKG REGARDING FISHERY PROBLEMS

1. DEPARTMENT DELIVERED TO SOUTH KOREA EMBASSY TODAY
AIDE-MEMOIRE (REPRODUCED IN FULL TEXT BELOW) EXPRESSING US
CONCERN OVER FAILURE OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO MEET ITS
AGREED OBLIGATION TO COLLECT CERTAIN TYPES OF FISHERY
STATISTICS AND OVER RAPID EXPANSION OF KOREAN BLACKCOD
FISHERY OFF THE US PACIFIC COAST IN FACE OF DETERIORATING
STOCK CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH THESE MATTERS HAVE BEEN CALLED
TO ATTENTION OF ROKG ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, I.E., AT US/ROK
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS IN 1974 AND 1975, DISCUSSIONS BE-
TWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ROK EMBASSY, DEPART-
MENT HAS NOT SEEN ANY VISIBLE INDICATIONS THAT US CON-
CERNS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND CONSIDERED IT

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NECESSARY TO REITERATE US CONCERNS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE.

2. FOR TOKYO: POST IS REQUESTED TO INFORM FONOFF AND FISHERY AGENCY OF ACTION TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT. FYI. GOJ HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED TO DEPARTMENT SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER EXPANDING KOREAN BLACKCOD FISHERY IN LIGHT OF DETERIORATING STOCK CONDITION. GOJ'S CONCERN IS BASED ON FACT THAT JAPAN HAS ABIDED BY TERMS OF US/JAPAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO BLACKCOD FISHING AND HAS RESTRICTED ITS FISHERY FOR CONSERVATION REASONS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. JAPAN IS CONCERNED THAT SHOULD BLACKCOD STOCKS CONTINUE TO DECLINE, US MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO REDUCE JAPANESE CATCH ALSO.

3. BEGIN TEXT AIDE-MEMOIRE: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES--REPUBLIC OF KOREA FISHERIES WORKING GROUP CONVENED IN SEOUL, NOVEMBER 1975.

AS NOTED IN THAT REPORT, THE FISHING STATISTICS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TRAWL FISHERIES WERE INCOMPLETE. FOR EXAMPLE, CATCHES OF HERRING IN THE BERING SEA WERE NOT REPORTED AND CATCH DATA BY TONNAGE CLASS OF TRAWLERS WERE NOT COMPILED BY STATISTICAL AREAS BUT FOR THE ENTIRE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN. WHERE FISHERY DATA WERE REPORTED QUARTERLY BY STATISTICAL BLOCKS OF TWO AND ONE HALF DEGREES BY FIVE DEGREES, THEY DID NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM THE TOTAL FLEET BUT FROM ONLY A SMALL SAMPLE OF VESSELS. STATISTICS ON KOREA'S BLACKCOD LONGLINE FISHERY WERE LIMITED TO A SAMPLE FROM ONE OR TWO VESSELS. IN ADDITION, BIOLOGICAL DATA RECEIVED FROM SAMPLES OF POLLOCK CAUGHT BY REPUBLIC OF KOREA TRAWLERS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED BY STATISTICAL BLOCKS. IN SUMMARY, THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE DATA SUBMITTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS RENDERED THEM INADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE COLLECTED.

THE UNITED STATES HAS CALLED THIS SITUATION TO THE ATTENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. THE FAILURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ITS AGREED OBLIGATIONS TO COLLECT AND SUBMIT DATA SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT FOREIGN FLEETS FISHING IN WATERS ADJACENT TO THE UNITED STATES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY OF COLLECTING AND EXCHANGING DATA WITH THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THE CONDITION OF THE STOCKS UNDER EXPLOITATION CAN BE CAREFULLY MONITORED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE HARVEST LEVELS AND PREVENT OVERFISHING.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE UNITED STATES NOTES THAT IN THE
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA STATED

ITS INTENTION TO SHARPLY EXPAND ITS BLACKCOD FLEET IN 1976.
THIS EXPANSION IS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN THE FACE OF
EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE WORKING
GROUP MEETING THAT THE BLACKCOD STOCKS IN THE NORTHEASTERN
PACIFIC OFF THE NORTH AMERICAN COAST ARE NOW BEING

HARVESTED AT, OR OVER, THEIR LEVEL OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE
YIELD. INDEED, THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED SHOWED A REDUCTION
IN THE STANDING STOCK OF BLACKCOD AND THE NEED TO LIMIT
FISHING LEVELS, OR EVEN TO REDUCE FISHING EFFORTS.

THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO REITERATE ITS CONCERN OVER THE
ACCELERATED EXPANSION OF THE BLACKCOD FISHING FLEET OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND REQUESTS THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TAKE SUCH ACTION AS NECESSARY TO CONTROL AND REGULATE ITS
FISHING FLEET IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT UNSTABLE RE-
SOURCE CONDITIONS OF THAT FISHERY. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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